California
Morris Dam NCCOSC

Facility and Location

Morris Dam Naval Command, Control, and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) is located in the Angeles National Forest, Los Angeles County, about 4.5 miles northeast of the city of Azusa. It occupies 20 acres of leased land divided into two parcels: the U.S. Forest Service owns the first parcel and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California owns the second. The dam was constructed in the 1930s. The Navy first leased the land from MWD in 1945. The torpedo testing facility was constructed in 1943 and the California Institute of Technology operated the facility from 1943 to 1950 as an annex to Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. The facility's primary research concentrated on the hydrodynamic aspects of torpedoes and a sonar system for detecting underwater objects. The facility was used for research until its closure in 1993. The facility was demolished in 1997 and has remained unused with concrete pads on it until the cleanup is completed.

Media Sampled and Findings

Groundwater — In 2009, 12 of 12 samples detected perchlorate from 0.78 to 9.68 ppb. In 2007, six of six samples detected perchlorate from 1.3 to 8.59 ppb. Prior to 2007, 13 of 13 samples detected perchlorate from 0.47 to 65 ppb.
Soil — In 2011, 13 of 80 samples detected perchlorate from 1.13 to 194 ppb. In 2007, 45 of 45 samples detected perchlorate from 0.54 to 754 ppb. In 2006, 73 of 73 samples detected perchlorate from 0.54 to 425 ppb.
Storm Water — In 2007, four of four samples detected perchlorate from 0.06 to 0.57 ppb.
Surface Water — In 2007, 12 of 12 samples detected perchlorate from 0.16 to 0.34 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Soil samples were below the 55,000 ppb residential and 720,000 ppb industrial soil screening levels recommended by EPA Region IX. All other samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb.

A Remediation System Evaluation was completed. Data indicated perchlorate is mixed with other contaminants in soil near the well. Area groundwater is in hydraulic communication with surface water and perchlorate was also detected in the reservoir and San Gabriel River upgradient/upstream at low concentrations. Soils were removed through an excavation and transportation removal action. Soil samples of the area which exceeded cleanup objectives were used to expand the excavation until cleanup objectives were achieved. Additional perchlorate testing of the new soil is expected to be complete in January 2012.